

Weekly Disease Surveillance Report

2023 Reporting Week 24: June 11 — June 17



This weekly report is produced by the DOH-Okaloosa Epidemiology Section to provide situational awareness to community partners. Data is subject to change as additional information is gathered.

COVID-19 Trends

During Week 24, COVID-19 levels for Okaloosa increased slightly, yet hospital admission levels remain low.

With the discontinuation of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) on May 11, 2023, the Community Level has been retired, as well as the *COVID-19 in Okaloosa County* page of this WDSR. Beginning Week 24, the COVID-19 Community Transmission Level has also been discontinued. DOH-Okaloosa will continue to provide the COVID-19 Hospital Admission Level as an indicator for recommended interventions in the community. For more information on the recommended actions based on the current levels, please visit the [CDC COVID-19 by County](#) webpage.

On April 19, 2023, the CDC issued a [media statement](#) focusing on simplifying COVID-19 vaccine recommendations. Please visit the media statement for information regarding vaccination of young children and alternatives to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

ILI Trends

Influenza-like illness (ILI) in Okaloosa plateaued for Week 24, and remains in line with the average for recent years, although elevated (current level: 2.27%; normal average: 2.25%). Please stay vigilant, promote vaccination, and visit the weekly [Florida FLU REVIEW](#).

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COVID-19 Corner

Week 24 Hospital Admission Level




COVID-19 Hospital Admissions Level	New Hospital Admissions per 100K Population per Week
LOW	2.9

PREVIOUS WEEK LEVEL: LOW

The Community Level has been retired with the end of the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE).

As a replacement, COVID-19 Hospital Admission Level will be used as an indicator for recommended interventions in the community based on each level and individual or community focus.

For more information on the levels and recommended actions based on the current level, please visit the [CDC COVID-19 by County](#) webpage.

HIGH		≥ 20.0
MEDIUM		10.0 - 19.9
LOW		<10.0

In the Know: Measles

CDC HAN: Guidance on Measles during the Summer Travel Season

As the summer travel season begins, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is issuing this [Health Alert Network \(HAN\) Health Advisory](#) to remind clinicians and public health officials to provide guidance for measles prevention to international travelers and to be on alert for cases of [measles](#). Guidance is also provided for people planning international travel. Measles (rubeola) is extremely contagious; one person infected by measles can infect 9 out of 10 of their unvaccinated close contacts.

As of [June 8, 2023](#), CDC has been notified of 16 confirmed U.S. cases of measles across 11 jurisdictions, with 14 (88%) linked to international travel. Based on current estimates, twice as many Americans are planning to travel internationally in 2023 compared with 2022. Many countries and popular travel destinations, such as [London](#), England, have experienced measles outbreaks in recent years. The United States has seen an [increase in measles cases](#) during the first 5 months of 2023, with 16 reported cases compared with 3 in 2022 during the same period. Most of these cases were among children who had not received measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine. To prevent measles infection and spread from importation, all U.S. residents should be up to date on their MMR vaccinations, especially prior to international travel regardless of the destination. For more information, please visit the [CDC HAN website](#).



Influenza-Like Illness

Week 24: June 11—June 17

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) is defined as fever greater than or equal to 100°F AND cough and/or sore throat in the absence of another known cause.

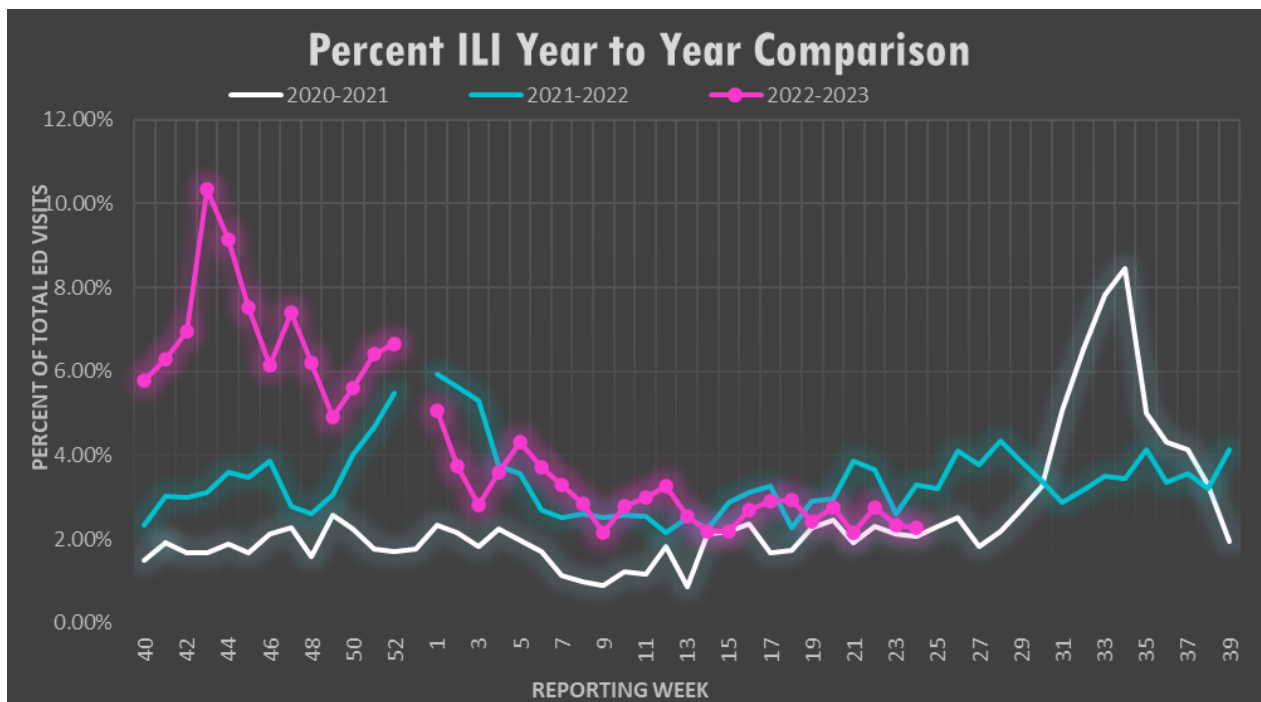


Figure 2: Annual comparison of the percent of all hospital ED visits due to ILI for Okaloosa county for the 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 influenza seasons by week. Data source: ESSENCE

ANALYSIS: During Week 24, flu reporting partners and ESSENCE (a syndromic surveillance system) reported a decrease in ILI activity for Okaloosa County. The percentage of ILI ED visits in Okaloosa County plateaued this week (2.33% during Week 23 to 2.27% during Week 24). Flu partners reported 8 positive rapid flu test this week (8 Influenza B). There were no specimens submitted to the state lab over the past three weeks. There were no ILI admissions or deaths reported by flu partners this week. No outbreaks have been reported in the past 3 weeks. The percentage of total ILI ED visits for Week 24 is lower than that of Week 24 last year.

Note: Other respiratory syndromes can be represented by increased ILI case numbers. Data Source: ESSENCE

% ILI by Age Group Week 24, 2023

Age Range	ILI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total ILI Visits
0-4	22	209	10.53%
5-19	11	285	3.86%
20-34	9	582	1.55%
35-54	7	571	1.23%
55-74	5	519	0.96%
75+	2	298	0.67%

Data Source: ESSENCE

% of Total ILI Visits by Facility Week 24, 2023

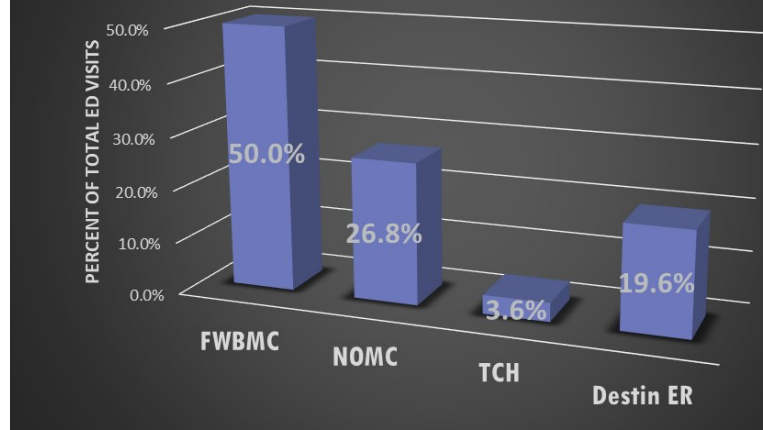


Figure 3: Hospital ED visits meeting ILI criteria stratified by facility. Percentages calculated based on total number of ILI ED visits. (n=56). Data source: ESSENCE



Syndromic Surveillance

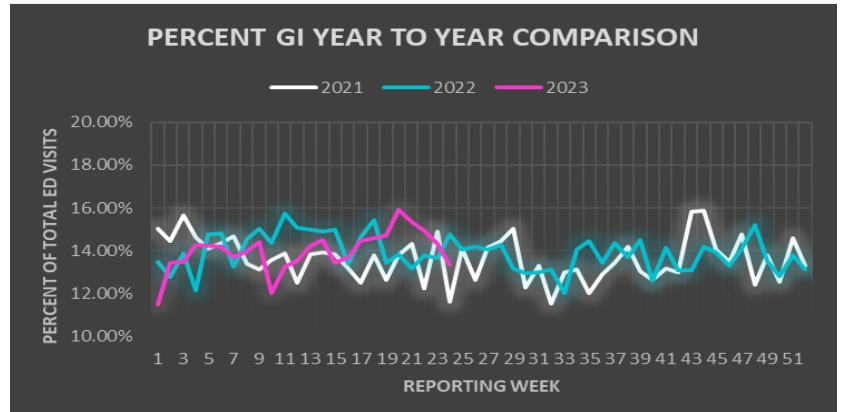
Week 24: June 11 - June 17

Gastro-intestinal Illness (GI)

Figure 4:

Annual comparison for the percent of GI for all Okaloosa County hospital ED visits week to week for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Data Source: ESSENCE

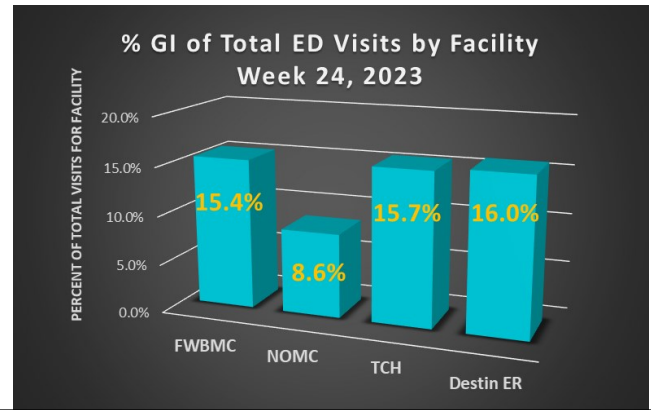


% GI by Age Group Week 24, 2023			
Age Range	GI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total GI Visits
0-4	34	209	16.27%
5-19	33	285	11.58%
20-34	96	582	16.49%
35-54	101	571	17.69%
55-74	39	519	7.51%
75+	26	298	8.72%

Figure 5:

Hospital emergency room visits due to GI illness stratified by facility.

Data source: ESSENCE

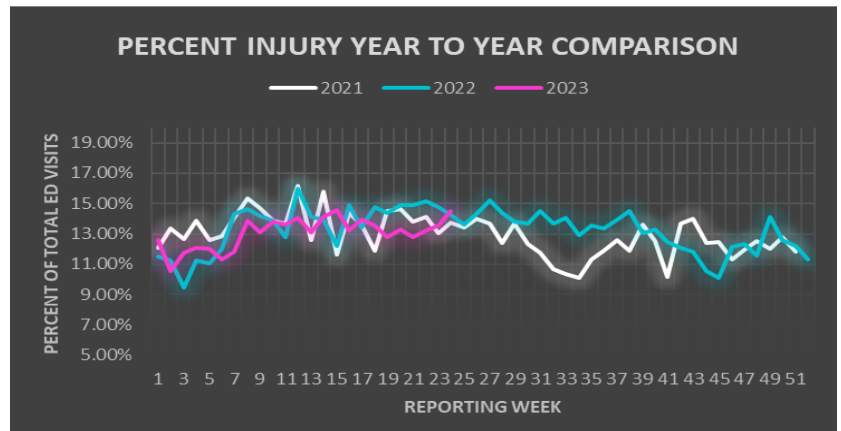


Injury

Figure 6:

Annual comparison for the percent of Injury for all Okaloosa County hospital ED visits week to week for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Data Source: ESSENCE

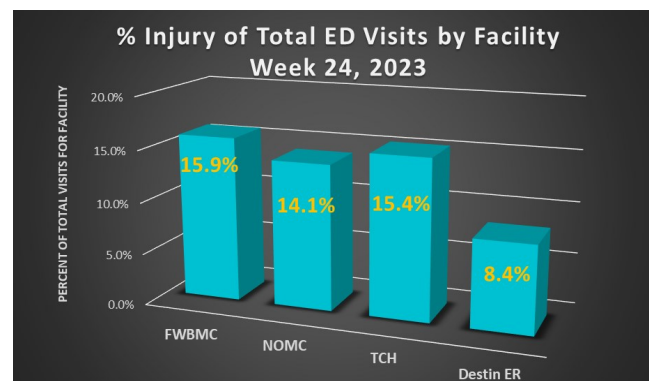


% Injury by Age Group Week 24, 2023			
Age Range	Injury Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total Injury Visits
0-4	31	209	14.83%
5-19	51	285	17.89%
20-34	72	582	12.37%
35-54	71	571	12.43%
55-74	72	519	13.87%
75+	61	298	20.47%

Figure 7:

Hospital emergency room visits due to Injury stratified by facility.

Data source: ESSENCE





Syndromic Surveillance

Week 24: June 11 - June 17

Total ED Visits by Syndrome

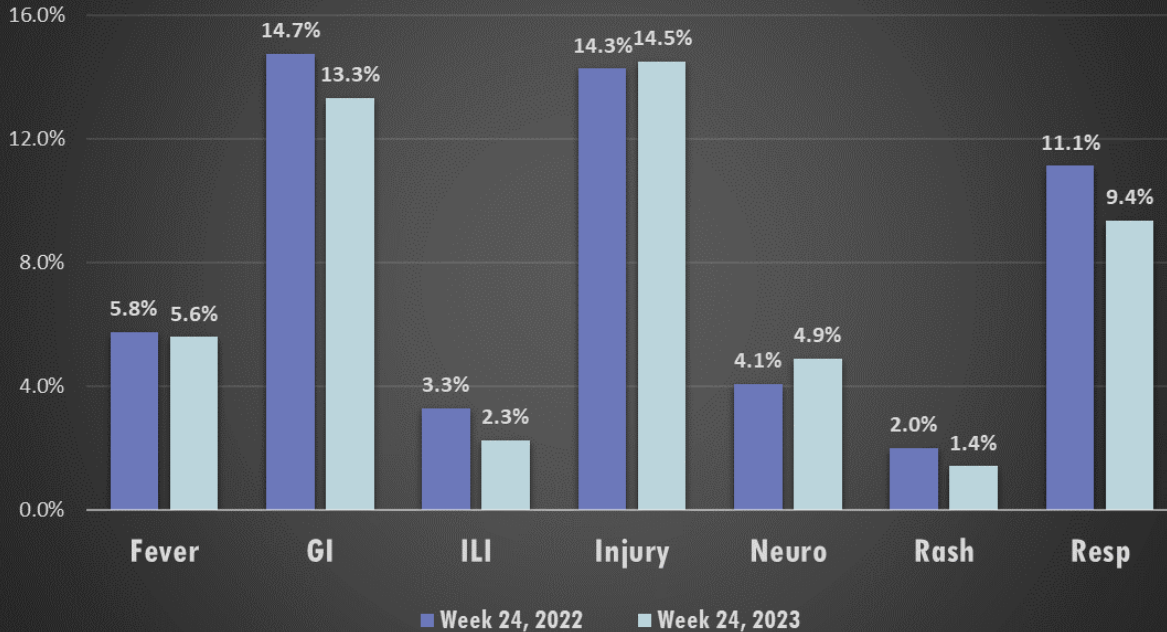
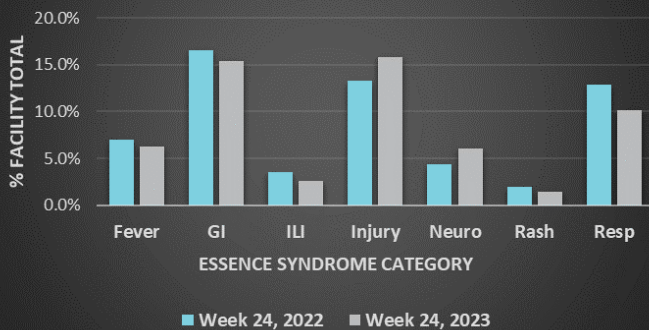


Figure 8: Hospital Emergency Department (ED) visits from 2023 Week 24 by select syndrome category. Percentages calculated based on total number of ED visits (n=2468). Some syndrome categories are not represented; therefore, represented percentages will not total 100%. Data source: ESSENCE

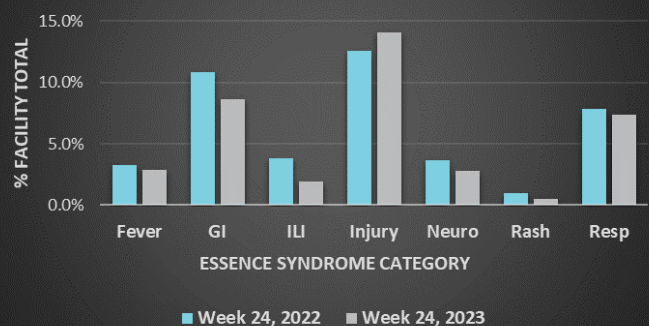
Fort Walton Beach Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 24- Fort Walton Beach Medical Center

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	34
5-19	INJURY	24
20-34	GI	49
35-54	GI	48
55-74	INJURY	33
75+	INJURY	32

North Okaloosa Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 24- North Okaloosa Medical Center

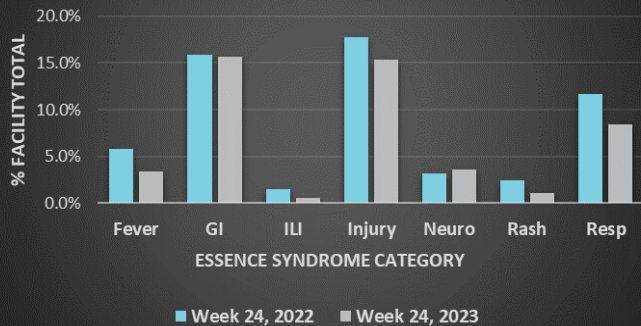
Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	11
5-19	INJURY	18
20-34	INJURY	27
35-54	INJURY	23
55-74	INJURY	23
75+	INJURY, RESP	10, 10



Syndromic Surveillance

Week 24: June 11 - June 17

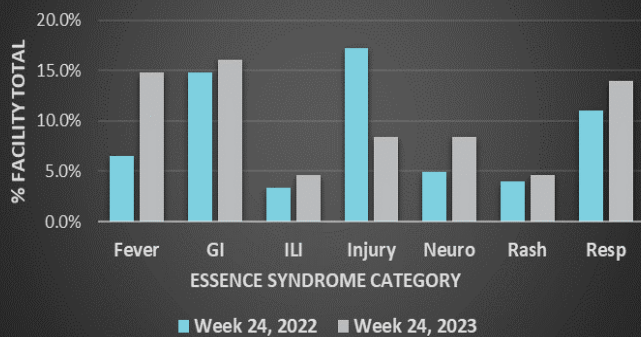
Twin Cities Hospital ED Presentations



Week 24 - Twin Cities Hospital

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	INJURY	9
5-19	INJURY	4
20-34	GI	12
35-54	GI	24
55-74	INJURY	12
75+	INJURY	17

DestinER ED Presentations



Week 24 - Destin ER

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	11
5-19	FEVER	13
20-34	GI	11
35-54	GI	11
55-74	FEVER, INJURY	4, 4
75+	GI	3

Week 24—Okaloosa County

Age Group	Top Syndrome
0-4	FEVER
5-19	INJURY
20-34	GI
35-54	GI
55-74	INJURY
75+	INJURY



Data Source: ESSENCE